

# The Avocet

Volume VII Number 2

February, 1960

## President's Message

The 7th annual Audubon workshop was held January 9th at the University Y.W.C.A. in Berkeley. This meeting was conducted in an entirely different fashion from those held previously. In the previous workshops, any number of delegates could attend from each branch or affiliate, but this year the number was restricted to three from each Society. Delegates representing the Santa Clara Valley Society were Admiral Charles Williams, Miss Harriet Mundy and Mrs. John McBride.

The meeting was conducted more or less as a round table discussion with the long tables set up in a hollow square. After registration and refreshments, the morning session was called to order. This session was divided into three parts:

- Part 1. Major branch problems -- each delegate had to mention a major concern of his or her Society.
- Part 2. Suggested solutions -- each delegate suggested a solution for his own problem. We then broke up into small groups to discuss the various problems and to work out solutions.
- Part 3. Consisted of Evaluations and presentation of Specific Solutions.

Among the major problems, non-participation of the membership seemed to be the most troublesome to the majority of branches. Other problems were

- a. Overburdening of those willing to work
- b. Training of field trip leaders
- c. Lethargy and no specific goal to work toward
- d. Finance -- how can a Society raise money?
- e. Territory -- how can a Society with a large territory provide for its membership?
- f. Saving the Tidelands before it is too late
- g. Youth education -- groups from the juniors to college students

In the afternoon session, each delegate was asked to describe in detail a productive activity of his Society; questions were allowed concerning ways and means used in each project. At this time a great deal of interest was again shown in the Questionnaire sent out by our Society and in the great response to it. A great many questions were asked about our Education Committee. Mr. Goodall gave us a sheet listing the California Societies and Junior Audubon Clubs belonging to each Society. The Santa Clara Valley area showed a jump from 29 clubs in year 1957-1958 to 45 clubs in 1958-1959.

It was a very interesting and informative meeting. It is always comforting to know that other Societies are struggling to overcome the same problems that confront one's own branch, and it is helpful to learn just how they have worked out a solution to some of these very problems.



COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sat. Feb. 6	9:00 A.M.	Los Altos Hills
Mon. Feb. 8	8:00 P.M.	Palo Alto Junior Museum
Wed. Feb. 10	8:30 A.M.	Vasona Reservoir Area
Wed. Feb. 17	8:00 P.M.	Screen Tour, San Jose
Sun. Feb. 21	9:00 A.M.	Searsville Lake
Wed. Feb. 24	8:30 A.M.	Westridge Area

February CalendarRegular Meeting

Monday, February 8. Dr. Tom Harvey will tell us about Audubon Camp of California. Several of our members have been to camp and will enjoy Tom's pictures of the area and the activities of the campers. Be at the Palo Alto Junior Musium, Middlefield Road, at 8:00 P.M.

Screen Tour

Wednesday, February 17, at 8:00 P.M., Morris Daily Auditorium, San Jose State College. The film is Land of Early Autumn by Cleveland P. Grant. Autumn in the high country of our West and in Alaska arrives with a rush that snuffs out summer before it has hardly begun. Cleveland P. Grant, famed lecturer-hpnotographer of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, has filmed the riot of color in wilderness areas of North American where autumn comes early...land of the ruffed grouse, moose, fox, fighting buffalo and the wary grizzly bear. Tickets are available at the door.

Field Trips

Saturday, February 6, a trip into the Los Altos Hills with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wolcott. Meet at the Los Altos Rancho Shopping Center on Fremont Avenue at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, February 10, to the Vasona Reservoir area on the north side of Los Gatos, where a County Park is being planned. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Lintott, 17,150 Buena Vista Avenue, Los Gatos. (Turn east from Santa Clara-Los Gatos Road about a mile north of Saratoga Avenue and just beyond Villa Felice Restaurant.) Leader: Katherine Lintott (EL 4-9664).

Sunday, February 21, to Searsville Lake with Mr. and Mrs. Warren Turner. Meet at the lake entrance at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch.

Wednesday Morning, February 24, to the Westridge Area, south from Menlo Park on Alpine Road. Meet at 8:30 A.M. at Ladera Shopping Center. Leader: Virginia Bothwell (DA 2-1209).

--- Emmanuel Taylor  
Field Trip Chairman

New Members

We extend a cordial welcome to the following:

Mrs. Jan Cipar                    430 Bay Road                    Menlo Park, California  
 Mrs. Adist Boylan                Mount Hermon                    California  
 (Changed from local to national membership.)

The following are subscribers to the Avocet:

Miss Mary Lyle Ryan            833 La Para Avenue            Palo Alto, California  
 Mrs. Bonnie Crofoot            1075 Caroline Avenue        San Jose, California  
 Mr. William K. Kirsher        1167 Lynbrook Way            San Jose, California

--- Mrs. Irving Snow  
 Membership Chairman

For Nature Photographers

Nature color slide photographers who would enjoy receiving wider recognition of their work will be interested to hear of the First San Francisco International Nature Color Slide Exhibition to be presented by the Photochrome Club in the Bay Region during March.

For those who wish to submit an entry for consideration, the deadline date is February 29. A maximum of four color slides is allowed and may be on any nature subject -- birds, flowers, insects, geological subjects, etc. The entry fee is \$1 to cover the costs of the exhibition. It is a non-profit operation, and there is no admission charge for the public showings.

The slides are to be judged by a jury panel of five members, one of whom is Phyllis Lindley, National Audubon Society Staff Member. The exhibition will contain about 350 top notch nature slides and will be projected throughout the Bay Area in March.

Entry forms and information are available from Miss Betty Randall, 1931 Grant Avenue, San Francisco 11.

Note: Because we want to print the Christmas Count report in full, Bob Wood's Notes from Afield and my Editor's Notes will appear in the March issue.

--- J.T., Editor

1959 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Sunday, January 3, 1960, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society made its annual Christmas Bird Count. Officially known as the "San Jose, California" count, it was directed by Emmanuel Taylor and Emily Smith. L. Richard Mewaldt served as compiler.

As in previous years, the count was made in the 15-mile diameter circle whose center is at Capitol Avenue and Maybury Road in

East San Jose. Estimates of time spent by the 45 observers in 14 parties follow: grassland and pasture 28%; canyon stream 26%; deciduous orchard 19%; salt water marsh 6%; oak woodland 5%; formal parks 4%; cultivated croplands 3%; town suburbs 1%. The count was made between 7:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Temperatures in most of the count area varied from a low of 28° to a high of 55° during the day of the count. The sky was clear, the visibility was unlimited, and the wind varied from 5 to 15 m.p.h. from the northwest. In all, 56 party miles were traveled on foot in 53 party hours, and 282 auto miles were logged in 44 party hours. It had been unseasonably dry and warm through October, November, and December. However, on the day of the count ice was encountered in all sectors, and some snow was on the ground in such areas as Hall's Valley, Sierra Road, Cherry Flats Reservoir, Wool's Ranch on Weller Road, and on the Arroyo Hondo.

The 125 species counted represents a new high in species encountered. This compares with 122 in 1958, 115 in 1951 and 1957, the previous highs. The 44,689 individuals counted this year is, however, well lower than the 57,845 counted in 1958. The smaller total count can probably be attributed to at least two factors: (1) the mild weather has kept many flocking species dispersed or even yet far north of San Jose and (2) no coverage of key areas was possible in the Alviso Sector (1 party only) and the Calveras Sector because of personnel shortages in those sectors. Even so, the 24,859 birds counted in the Alviso Sector was more than half of the total count. A more homogeneous coverage of all sectors would provide a more significant picture of our avifauna.

Among the more significant results of the count may be noted (1) the paucity of egrets and herons, (2) the presence of Blue-winged Teal, Common Mergansers and Mountain Bluebirds, (3) only one Ring-necked Pheasant, (4) the very small numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons, Varied Thrushes, and Cedar Waxwings, (5) the detection of nine Myrtle Warblers, (6) the sighting of sporadically or seldom counted species including the Turkey Vulture, Roadrunner, Western Flycatcher, House Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow, and (7) 98 Starlings as winter visitants.

The 1959 sector leaders and party members were as follows:

Alviso: Henry G. Weston, Thomas Harvey and James McCammon.

Southwest: Angelina Snow, D.J. Giroux, Mrs. J.M. Giroux, Mildred King, Will Luidt, Rebecca Turner, Warren Turner, Charles Zwaal and Fanny Zwaal.

Evergreen: Emmanuel Taylor, Virginia Bothwell, Florence Durfee, R.L. Fuller, Eva McRae, Harliss Moser, Nettie Moser, William Pillow, Bernice Pillow, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prusman, Mrs. C.D. Shane, Emily Smith, Mary Taylor, and Edith Wirtanen.

Alum Rock: Grace Brubaker, Karen Brubaker, Phil Gordon, Celeste Kirsher, Bill Kirsher, Bob Nevis, Ann Peterson, Homer Peterson, Donald Schmoltdt, Hebert Wittgenstein, and Manette Wittgenstein.

Calveras: Al Wool, Neil Dickinson, Dick Mewaldt, Bill Mewaldt, Les Sleeper, Nell Sleeper, Bob Wood.

More than fifty persons participated in the summary at 5:00 P.M. at the home of Fran and Dick Mewaldt in East San Jose. Among those present for the count were six Texas Larsons, stationed at or visiting in Marin County at the new Refuge on Richardson's Bay, Mary Meehan, and Elsie Hoeck. Excellent refreshments were arranged by the Social Committee.

SPECIES	Alviso Sector	Southwest Sector	Evergreen Sector	Alum Rock Sector	Calveras Sector	All Sectors
Horned Grebe	1	-	-	-	-	1
Eared Grebe	2400	-	-	-	3	2403
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	-	-	3	4
Grebe, spp.	300	-	-	-	-	300
White Pelican	96	-	-	-	-	96
Great Blue Heron	-	-	2	-	-	2
Canada Goose	25	-	29	-	561	615
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	2	2
Mallard	-	-	6	18	7	31
Pintail	156	-	-	-	-	156
Green-winged Teal	1	-	-	-	48	49
Blue-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	2	2
American Widgeon	90	-	-	-	-	90
Shoveler	2301	-	-	-	-	2301
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	9	9
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	28	-	-	28
Canvasback	-	-	-	36	-	36
Lesser Scaup	-	-	1	-	-	1
Common Goldeneye	1	-	3	4	5	13
Ruddy Duck	803	-	210	31	17	1061
Common Merganser	-	-	2	30	-	32
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	2	-	29	31
Ducks, Spp.	28	-	-	-	7	35
Turkey Vulture	-	1	-	-	2	3
White-tailed Kite	3	1	-	2	3	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	2	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	2	-	3
Red-tailed Hawk	4	5	9	12	16	46
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	4	3	7
Marsh Hawk	3	-	-	-	-	3
Sparrow Hawk	7	5	7	5	24	48
Hawks, Spp.	-	-	3	-	-	3
California Quail	-	114	71	64	31	280
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	-	-	-	-	1
Virginia Rail	-	-	-	-	1	1
American Coot	681	8	44	10	40	783
Killdeer	14	34	90	17	28	183
Black-bellied Plover	10	-	-	-	-	10
Common Snipe	1	4	14	-	4	23



SPECIES	Alviso Sector	Southwest Sector	Evergreen Sector	Alum Rock Sector	Calveras Sector	All Sectors
Long-billed Curlew	41	-	-	-	-	41
Spotted Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	13	14
Willet	34	-	-	-	-	34
Greater Yellowlegs	6	-	-	-	5	11
Least Sandpiper	81	-	-	-	3	84
Dunlin	102	-	-	-	-	102
Dowitcher, Spp.	341	-	-	-	-	341
Western Sandpiper	26	-	-	-	-	26
American Avocet	68	-	-	-	-	68
Glaucous-winged Gull	9	-	-	-	-	9
Western Gull	-	3	-	-	-	3
Herring Gull	2500	-	-	-	-	2500
California Gull	13	-	-	-	-	13
Ring-billed Gull	1734	-	-	21	-	1755
Bonaparte's Gull	2800	-	-	-	-	2800
Gulls, Spp.	9700	5	-	-	300	10005
Band-tailed Pigeon	-	-	-	22	-	22
Mourning Dove	2	7	16	-	7	32
Roadrunner	-	-	-	-	1	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1
Burrowing Owl	3	-	-	-	2	5
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	2	2
White-throated Swift	-	-	-	-	3	3
Anna's Hummingbird	-	9	9	10	2	30
Belted Kingfisher	-	3	1	4	5	13
Red-shafted Flicker	1	11	44	54	51	161
Acorn Woodpecker	-	5	14	36	8	63
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	2	6	2	10
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	-	2	-	2
Downy Woodpecker	-	-	3	4	2	9
Nittall's Woodpecker	-	-	4	11	2	17
Western Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	1
Black Phoebe	1	9	7	10	18	45
Say's Phoebe	-	3	6	1	7	17
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	38	38
Steller's Jay	-	-	18	90	18	126
Scrub Jay	-	18	56	110	35	219
Yellow-billed Magpie	-	-	44	-	44	88
Common Crow	-	-	285	-	82	367
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	-	5	20	58	17	100
Plain Titmouse	-	2	25	25	17	69
Common Bushtit	-	27	136	319	110	592
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	6	15	8	29
Brown Creeper	-	-	1	1	-	2
Wrentit	-	1	1	14	2	18
Dipper	-	-	-	1	4	5

SPECIES	Alviso Sector	Southwest Sector	Evergreen Sector	Alum Rock Sector	Calveras Sector	All Sectors
House Wren	-	-	2	-	-	2
Winter Wren	-	-	-	2	-	2
Bewick's Wren	-	3	5	21	4	33
Canon Wren	-	-	-	4	4	8
Rock Wren	-	-	-	-	4	4
Mockingbird	2	26	33	26	5	92
California Thrasher	-	2	3	7	2	14
Robin	-	548	731	311	12	1602
Varied Thrush	-	4	-	-	6	10
Hermit Thrush	-	6	24	54	11	95
Western Bluebird	-	3	5	10	80	98
Mountain Bluebird	-	-	-	-	23	23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	43	100	37	184
Water Pipit	10	30	18	-	200	258
Cedar Waxwing	-	19	-	38	-	57
Loggerhead Shrike	8	9	27	6	10	60
Starling	88	-	2	8	-	98
Hutton's Vireo	-	1	-	1	1	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	1
Myrtle Warbler	-	-	8	-	1	9
Audubon's Warbler	3	23	287	173	38	624
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	1
House Sparrow	25	53	141	220	45	484
Western Meadowlark	23	28	248	56	154	509
Redwinged Blackbird	12	187	183	-	33	415
Tricolored Blackbird	-	-	1	-	-	1
Brewer's Blackbird	64	836	1417	104	451	2872
Purple Finch	-	4	14	2	18	38
House Finch	107	256	474	259	92	1188
American Goldfinch	15	125	69	79	17	305
Lesser Goldfinch	23	339	622	33	179	1196
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-	-	3	-	-	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	7	26	11	4	48
Brown Towhee	-	49	79	97	18	243
Savannah Sparrow	16	61	1	-	86	164
Lark Sparrow	-	131	87	-	117	335
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	2	7	9
Oregon Junco	-	18	194	389	320	921
White-crowned Sparrow	70	411	1201	345	443	2470
Golden-crowned Sparrow	-	125	642	552	232	1551
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	1
Fox Sparrow	-	-	2	2	5	9
Song Sparrow	1	9	4	28	9	51
Total birds	24,859	3,596	7,917	3,995	4,322	44,689
Total species	54	51	69	68	84	125